

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 5804

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FOR NEA, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS FROM CONSTABLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, MPOL
SUBJECT: US/USSR INDIAN OCEAN TALKS

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE US/USSR TALKS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL BEGIN THIS WEEK. I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH WE HAVE NEGLECTED PAKISTAN ON THIS ISSUE.
2. IN A MESSAGE EARLIER THIS YEAR ON POLICY OPTIONS FOR US/PAK RELATIONS, WE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT ONCE THE TALKS WERE SCHEDULED, WE KEEP THE GOP INFORMED, IN GENERAL TERMS, OF THEIR PROGRESS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE INDIANS THE TALKS ARE TAKING PLACE AND HAVE ASKED IF THEY HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR THOUGHTS THEY WANT TO PASS ON TO US.
3. AS YOU KNOW, PAKISTAN HAS BEEN, AMONG ALL THE LITTORAL STATES, ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS IN TERMS OF SUPPORT (ALBEIT TACIT) FOR OUR INDIAN OCEAN POLICY. ALTHOUGH BHUTTO HAS NOT PUBLICLY ADVOCATED A US PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, HIS PEOPLE HAVE PRIVATELY SPOKEN IN FAVOR

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OF DEVELOPING DIEGO GARCIA AND THE GOP HAS NEVER PUBLICLY CRITICIZED OUR PLANS FOR THE ISLAND. ALSO, IF CINCPAC PROJECTIONS HOLD, WE WILL HAVE MORE SHIP VISITS AT KARACHI NEXT YEAR THAN ANY OTHER PORT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. KARACHI STILL REMAINS ONE OF THE VERY FEW PORTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WHICH ALLOWS VISITS BY AMERICAN NUCLEAR POWERED WAR SHIPS.

4. PERHAPS THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN CONTACT IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE PAK EMBASSY ON THE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS. IF NOT, I THINK IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE LET THE PAKS KNOW WHERE THE TALKS STAND AND ASK THEM IF THEY HAVE ANY IDEAS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US ON THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE GOP ON VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY MATTTTERS, OUR INTERESTS ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL ON THE QUESTION OF A US PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SHIP VISITS. I THINK, THEREFORE, IT IS IN OUR IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO KEEP THE GOP AS CLOSELY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE TALKS.

5. I BELIEVE THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY FROM OUR WORRIES OVER THE PRESENT IRRITANTS IN US/PAK RELATIONS. WE SHOULD NOT LET IMPEDIMENTS TO GOOD RELATIONS IN OTHER AREAS STAND IN THE WAY OF WORKING WITH THE PAKS IN ONE OF THE FEW AREAS FROM WHICH WE GAIN CONSIDERABLE BENEFIT. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT TAKING A LOOK AT THIS QUESTION AND SEEING IF WE CAN BRING THE GOP SOMEWHAT INTO OUR CONFIDENCE ON THE TALKS.
CONSTABLE

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